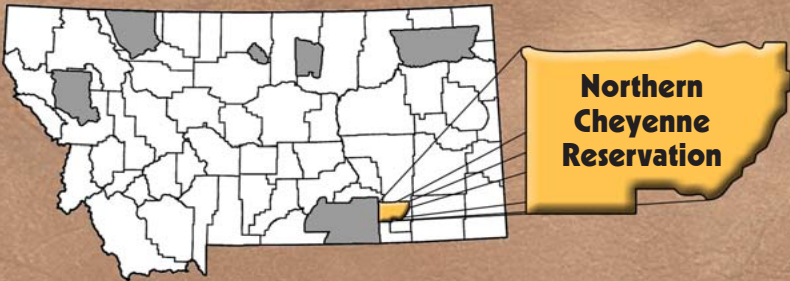




*photo courtesy of Suzie & Rick Graetz*

## Demographic & Economic Information for Northern Cheyenne Reservation



Census and Economic Information Center  
Montana Department of Commerce  
P. O. Box 200505, Helena, MT 59620-0505  
Ph: (406) 841-2740 Fax: (406) 841-2731  
E-mail: [ceic@mt.gov](mailto:ceic@mt.gov)  
Website: [www.ceic.mt.gov](http://www.ceic.mt.gov)



**RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU**  
WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION  
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

Research & Analysis Bureau  
Montana Department of Labor & Industry  
P. O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624-1728  
Ph: (406) 444-2430 or (800) 541-3904 Fax: (406) 444-2638  
E-mail: [webmasterrad@mt.gov](mailto:webmasterrad@mt.gov)  
Website: [www.ourfactsfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsfuture.org)



State Tribal Economic Development Commission  
Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

# Northern Cheyenne Reservation

The Little Wolf Capitol Building is the Northern Cheyenne Tribe's headquarters, and is located in Lame Deer, Montana. The Tribal homeland encompasses 445,000 acres of grass covered hills, narrow valleys and steep outcroppings near the Tongue River Valley, and is home to nearly 55% of the Tribe's 9,043 enrolled members. Unlike most rural Montana communities, which are losing population, reservations such as Northern Cheyenne are experiencing an increase. According to Tribal Enrollment officials, nearly one-third (1,431) of the population residing on the reservation is below the age of 16.

Beneath the reservation's surface lies part of a coal belt stretching from southeast Montana into Wyoming that is estimated to contain 20 to 50 billion tons of a low-sulfur, relatively clean-burning coal. Legal, environmental and cultural issues involving the Tribe, private industry, and the US Government were decisive and influenced the Tribe's approach in the potential development of its coal, oil and gas resources on the reservation. In addition, the Tribe seeks to tap into renewable energy development projects including wind and solar.

Evolving out of the vocational education program or "Indian Action Program," Chief Dull Knife College (CDKC), an accredited community college, offered its first academic courses in the winter quarter of 1978. From its origins, CDKC offered students vocational training that would prepare them to enter and succeed in the skilled labor force. Many enrolled in such programs as Heavy Equipment Mechanics and Welding. Today, CDKC has expanded its curricular offerings to include an Associate of Arts degree, an Associate of Applied Science degree, and Vocational Certificates.

A recent initiative, of notable significance, is an effort to improve homeownership on the reservation. To bolster this undertaking the Tribal Council has adopted a new Mortgage Lending Code that provides the security for financial institutions to initiate more home loans for tribal members on the reservation.

The economy is primarily supported by federal government, tribal government, farming/ranching, and non-native/native owned businesses. The largest employers serving the reservation are the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, providing employment opportunities to 519 employees, Indian Health Service (104), Bureau of Indian Affairs (45), Chief Dull Knife College (61), Lame Deer Public Schools (85), Charging Horse Casino (33), Western Energy (41), and St. Labre Indian School (approx. 300).

# Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Agricultural Statistics

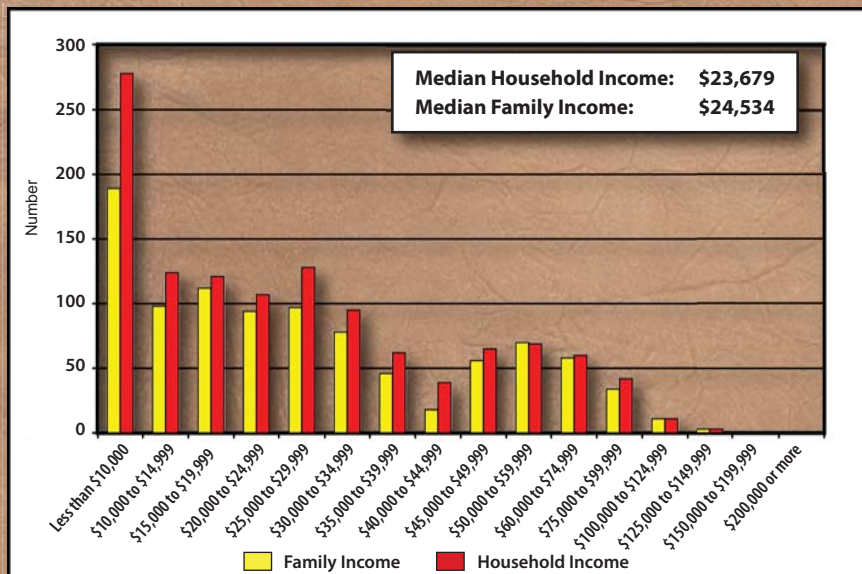
## 2002 Census of Agriculture

Farms Operated by  
All Farms      American Indians

Farms		
Farms: (number)	64	50
Land in farms (acres)	403,152	320,065
Average size of farms (acres)	6,299	6,401
Farms by size: (number)		
Less than 1,000 acres	43	38
1,000 acres or more	21	12
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)		
Less than \$100,000	49	39
\$100,000 or more	15	11
Farms by type of organization: (number)		
Family, Individual, Partnership	59	46
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	5	4
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested		
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)		
Cattle and calves	10,364	7,360
Hogs and pigs	-	-
Sheep and lambs	(D)	(D)
Horses and ponies	558	456
Bison	(D)	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	0	0
Crops Harvested (acres)		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	-	-
Wheat for grain, All	(D)	-
Winter wheat for grain	(D)	-
Durum wheat for grain	-	-
Spring wheat for grain	(D)	-
Barley for grain	(D)	-
Oats for grain	-	-
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	-	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	7,674	4,402
Operator Demographics		
Primary occupation: (number)		
Farming	48	30
Other	59	42
Place of residence: (number)		
On farm operated	85	52
Not on farm operated	22	20
Years on present farm: (number)		
Less than 10 years	23	15
10 years or more	84	57
Age group: (number)		
Under 55 years	65	43
55 years and over	42	29
Average age of operators: (number)	50.4	50.7

(D): Not Disclosable      Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



**Household Income:** This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

**Family Income:** In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	27.9%	30.3%
Associate Degree	9.5%	9.8%
Bachelor's Degree	9.8%	6.7%
Master's Degree	2.5%	0.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	49.5%	52.3%
Rental Occupied	50.5%	47.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

### Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
  - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
  - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
  - Did any work as paid employees
  - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
  - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
  - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
  - Available for work
  - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
  - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

### U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

### Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
  - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
  - Available for work
  - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
  - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
  - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

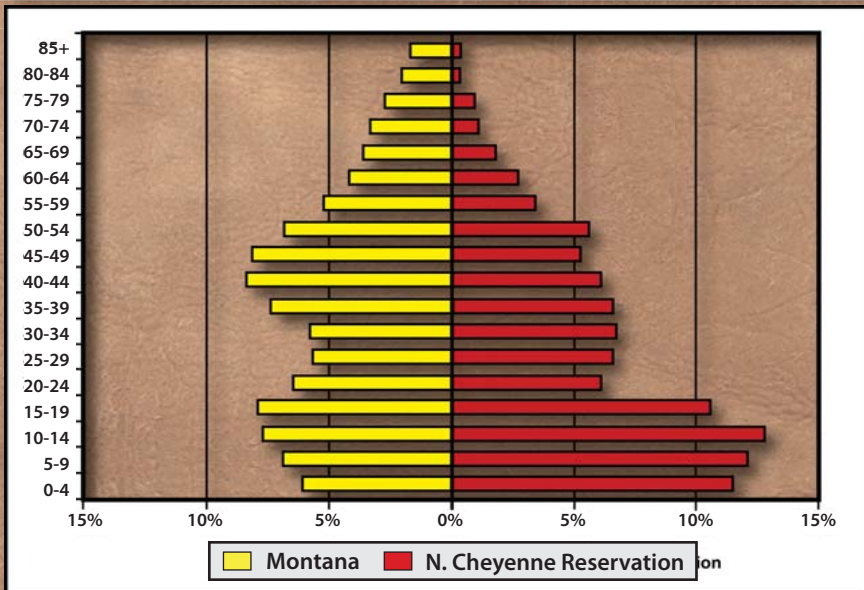
	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
MT Dept. of Labor & Industry	2006	1,372	1,213	158	11.5%
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	1,567	1,261	308	19.5%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	2,927	1,177	1,750	59.8%

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Occupation by Gender Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indian
<b>Total:</b>	1,261	987
<b>Male:</b>	648	506
Management, professional, and related occupations	207	127
Service occupations	148	144
Sales and office occupations	28	26
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	26	17
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	121	99
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	118	93
<b>Female:</b>	613	481
Management, professional, and related occupations	287	196
Service occupations	119	93
Sales and office occupations	181	168
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	4	4
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	0	0
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	22	20

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation - Population Pyramid Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation Wage & Salary Employment - Annual Averages 2005 - 2006

Industry	2005		2006		Employ Growth	Wage Growth
	Employ.	Wages	Employ.	Wages		
<b>Total</b>	1,035	\$26,545	1,027	\$27,815	-0.8%	4.8%
<b>Total Private</b>	196	\$14,212	181	\$14,411	-7.7%	1.4%
Goods Producing	6	\$28,762	8	\$11,749	36.2%	-59.2%
Construction	6	\$28,762	5	\$16,402	-20.3%	-43.0%
Service Providing	190	\$13,771	173	\$14,532	-9.0%	5.5%
Retail Trade	76	\$11,926	80	\$11,889	5.3%	-0.3%
Professional & Business Services	12	\$15,223	4	\$13,353	-61.9%	-12.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	60	\$14,518	56	\$15,768	-6.2%	8.6%
<b>Total Government</b>	839	\$29,419	846	\$30,675	0.8%	4.3%
Federal Government	185	\$45,041	166	\$49,218	-10.7%	9.3%
State Government	2	\$47,292	-	-	-	-
Local Government	652	\$24,921	681	\$26,162	4.4%	5.0%
Local Government Education	251	\$28,185	226	\$28,589	-10.0%	1.4%
Local Government Non-Education	401	\$22,882	455	\$24,960	13.4%	9.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses

# American Indian and Total Population for Northern Cheyenne Reservation and Related Areas

	American Indian Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	4,029	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Big Horn County	7,495	7,579	7,592	7,582	7,753	7,877	7,905
Busby CDP*	622	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Muddy CDP*	591	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rosebud County	3,044	3,063	3,090	3,168	3,179	3,218	3,164
Ashland CDP*	349	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Birney CDP*	93	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lame Deer CDP*	1,866	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Total Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northern Cheyenne Reservation	4,470	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Big Horn County	12,671	12,818	12,831	12,885	13,056	13,076	13,035
Busby CDP*	695	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Muddy CDP*	627	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rosebud County	9,383	9,272	9,273	9,301	9,228	9,279	9,261
Ashland CDP*	464	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Birney CDP*	108	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lame Deer CDP*	2,018	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

\*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

## Northern Cheyenne Reservation Information

**Tribe:**

Northern Cheyenne

**Tribe Address:**

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 128, Lame Deer MT 59043,  
406-477-6284, [www.ncheyenne.net](http://www.ncheyenne.net)



Tribal Council President  
Geri Small



Governor  
Brian Schweitzer

**Chief Dull Knife College:**

P.O. Box 98, 1 College Drive, Lame Deer  
MT 59043, 406-477-6215, [www.cdkc.edu](http://www.cdkc.edu)

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